

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10. (previously presented): Apparatus for subdividing at least one running rod into sections of predetermined length, comprising:

an unbalanced drive including an output member rotatable about a first axis;

a mobile ledger for the at least one rod, said ledger being reciprocal back and forth in and counter to a predetermined direction and receiving motion from said output member, said ledger moving along an essentially linear path; and

an arrangement for compensating for the lack of balance of said drive, including

a first counterpoise arranged to orbit about said first axis, and

a second counterpoise arranged to orbit about a second axis in synchronism with said first counterpoise, said second axis being spaced apart from said first axis.

Claim 11. (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising at least one severing implement arranged to reciprocate with said ledger and to sever the at least one rod during movement in said predetermined direction.

Claim 12. (original): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said unbalanced drive includes a crank mechanism having a crank arm coupling said ledger with said output member.

Claim 13. (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said crank arm includes a first portion arranged to orbit about said first axis and a second portion connected with said ledger.

Claim 14. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said ledger includes ~~ineudes~~ at least one guide for the at least one rod and a flexible carrier for said at least one guide.

Claim 15. (original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said carrier comprises at least one leaf spring.

Claim 16. (original): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a shaft rotatable about said second axis and mounting said second counterpoise, and means for rotating said shaft in synchronism with said output member.

Claim 17. (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said means for rotating said shaft comprises an endless flexible torque transmitting element.

Claim 18. (original): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said torque transmitting element comprises a V-belt.

Claim 19. (previously presented): Apparatus for subdividing at least one running rod into sections of predetermined length, comprising:

- an unbalanced drive including an output member rotatable about a first axis;
- a mobile ledger for the at least one rod, said ledger being reciprocal back and forth in and counter to a predetermined direction and receiving motion from said output member;
- an arrangement for compensating for the lack of balance of said drive, including
  - a first counterpoise arranged to orbit about said first axis,
  - a second counterpoise arranged to orbit about a second axis in synchronism with said first counterpoise, said second axis being spaced apart from said first axis; and
  - a shaft rotatable about said second axis and mounting said second counterpoise, and means for rotating said shaft in synchronism with said output member,

wherein said output member is arranged to rotate in a first direction and said means for rotating includes means for rotating said shaft in a second direction counter to said first direction.

Claim 20. (previously presented): Apparatus for subdividing at least one running rod into sections of predetermined length, comprising:

- an unbalanced drive including an output member rotatable about a first axis;
- a mobile ledger for the at least one rod, said ledger being reciprocal back and forth in and counter to a predetermined direction and receiving motion from said output member, said ledger moving along an essentially linear path; and
- an arrangement for compensating for the lack of balance of said drive, including
  - a first counterpoise arranged to orbit about said first axis, and
  - a second counterpoise arranged to orbit about a second axis in synchronism with said first counterpoise, said second axis being spaced apart from said first axis,

wherein said compensating means further includes at least one further counterpoise and means for orbiting said at least one further counterpoise in synchronism with one of said first and second counterpoises.

Claim 21. (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for orbiting said at least one further counterpoise includes a kinematic connection between said output member and said at least one further counterpoise.

Claim 22. (original): The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising an additional shaft eccentrically mounting said at least one further counterpoise and rotatable by said output member about a further axis spaced apart from said second axis.

Claim 23. (original): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said further axis coincides with one of said first and second axes.

Claim 24. (original): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said at least one further counterpoise is arranged to orbit about said first axis and is spaced apart from said first counterpoise in the direction of said first axis.

Claim 25. (original): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said at least one further counterpoise is angularly offset relative to said first counterpoise circumferentially of said first axis.

Claim 26. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said first and second counterpoises respectively have first and second centers of gravity, said centers of gravity being disposed ~~ina~~ in a common plane.

Claim 27. (original): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said common plane is an at least substantially vertical plane.

Claim 28. (original): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said ledger comprises two at least substantially tubular guides for two discrete rods and a common flexible carrier for said guides.

Claim 29. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said drive has a single crank member.